

DISCOVERY

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

'Quality of Life' initiative showcased at Brooks enlisted quarters

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

It does not qualify as a resort or have a chance to earn a five-star accommodation rating, but to the folks who reside in the unaccompanied enlisted quarters in Bldg. 719, the renovations there certainly improved their quality of life.

On Wednesday, Brooks senior leaders held ribbon-cutting ceremonies at two of the building's areas that were renovated using \$125,000 in Quality of Life funds provided by Air Force Materiel Command. The majority of the money was used to upgrade the outdoor pavilion recreation area and convert a second floor dayroom into a theater-style movie and video game viewing area.

"I don't call these type of improvements luxurious," said Col. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, explaining that today's enlisted force have higher expectations concerning quality of life issues. Travis praised senior noncommissioned officers for their leadership and responsiveness to enlisted members' concerns.

Dorms, Page 4



311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis, center, joined by Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins, left, and Brooks Dormitory Manager Tech. Sgt. Glen Watts, survey the new barbecue pit outside the base dorms, just one of the Quality of Life initiatives highlighted in conjunction with the Bldg. 719 ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday.

Photo by Airman First Class Samantha Shieh

Hold off embroidering AF logo on jackets

Officials advise vendors, individuals to wait for further guidance

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force clothing office officials are asking airmen to wait a few weeks before having their lightweight blue jackets embroidered with the Air Force logo.

"We've had an overwhelmingly positive response in regards to placing the logo on the jacket," said Libby Glade, Air Force clothing office chief.

"However, we have also received numerous questions from embroidery vendors and private individuals about the logo. We are revising the technical data to obtain an embroidery software format to ensure a high-quality, consistent appear-

"We are advising vendors and individuals to hold off on embroidering until further guidance is available."

Libby Glade
Air Force Clothing office chief

ance."

A contractor is currently working on a digitized pattern, which will be available online at: www.af.mil/airforcestory by the first week of February, Ms. Glade said.

This pattern should be compatible with 90 percent of the embroidery software programs used by vendors.

"We are advising vendors and individuals to hold off on embroider-

ing until further guidance is available," she said.

Besides the digitized pattern, complete, updated specifications for embroidery will be available online.

These specifications will include a diagram of logo placement and design elements, such as thread color and number, font style and size, stitch style and count, and spacing.

Ms. Glade said those individuals who have already had their jackets embroidered based on the current Web site logo guidelines and the previous news article are authorized to wear their embroidered jackets.

"However, we are advising that since this software will ensure conformity with the Air Force logo guidelines and provide uniformity across the AF, it would be best if individuals refrained from having their jackets embroidered until the software is available," she said.

Veteran hiring increases

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Hiring of military veterans across the federal civilian work force increased in fiscal 2002, the government's director of personnel said recently.

In fact, hiring of veterans in the federal work force was up more than 19 percent over the previous fiscal year, said Kay Coles James, U.S. Office of Personnel Management director, in her agency's most recent annual report to Congress.

The employment of veterans within the federal government and in private industry is appropriate, because "the many freedoms we enjoy as a nation did not come freely," Ms. James said. "They were earned through the lives and selfless sacrifices of our veterans."

In explaining the 19.2 percent increase, the OPM report showed 47,510 veterans were hired government-wide in fiscal 2002, compared to 39,874 hired the year before. About one out

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more than just a coach

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February 1-29, 2004



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Brooks worker commends contractor for outstanding effort

During a recent holiday, I had to go in to the Radioanalytical Laboratory in Bldg. 140 to take care of some work. When I arrived at the office I noticed that the Grubb-Ellis folks were finishing their work on a steam leak that had occurred in the tunnel. On the way to my office, I noticed some water on the floor. We've had previous leaks during rainstorms and from overhead pipes, so it was important that I find the source.

When I finally went into Room 5, where all our gamma spectroscopy, alpha spectroscopy and alpha/beta nuclear detection instrumentation is located, I discovered the source of the leak. The chiller unit that was directly overhead of the Uninterruptable Power Supply was leaking onto the UPS system. The water was splashing over the top of the UPS and spreading out all over the floor into the room.

There are three computer servers in this room in addition to the \$2 million worth of equipment. Not only was the UPS threatened

by this water-soaked nightmare, the detection equipment and servers were also threatened.

I immediately turned off the chiller unit, but the water continued to flow. I contacted one of the military technicians, Tech. Sgt. Ty Richards, to help me. While waiting for him I remembered the Grubb-Ellis people who were finishing up their job on the steam leak. I asked them for assistance and Mike Feagin and Albert Ortiz immediately responded. After gathering some tools, they corrected the problem, which turned out to be a clogged drainage line from the chiller.

This easily could have been a disaster. More than \$2 million in equipment in that room, all controlled and powered by that UPS, could have been lost, including the use of some critical detection equipment for several weeks. At the least, they could have been seriously damaged, causing our lab to shut down to replace the equipment. Since we are the Air Force's only radioanalytical laboratory, this could have had far reaching effects on completing our mission.

Mike Feagin and Albert Ortiz did not have to help us out. They could have said we needed to go through proper channels and get a work request. They did not ask for that. They just quickly assessed the problem and fixed it.

In my opinion, those two went beyond what is expected of them and helped save money and equipment, and saved us several days in repair and down time that could have affected ongoing missions.

Terry D. Boyd, GS-11

Air Force Institute for Operational Health

Retraining, an alternative to calling it quits

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper
Brooks Career Assistance Advisor

Are you considering leaving the Air Force because your career field is not what you had hoped it would be? You may consider retraining into another field more appealing. It's an alternative to calling it quits.

The Air Force is a big place, with a wide range of career opportunities. Take some time and explore what's available and see how you may be able to take advantage of the opportunities out there.

Here is how it works: First term airman, defined as those airman on their first enlistment, apply under the Quality Retraining Program. No matter what your Air Force Specialty Code and manning levels are, you can still apply to retrain.

QRP focuses on quality rather than "first come, first served" basis. Retraining selection is a competitive process prioritized according to the following:

- Most recent EPR
- Current grade/projected grade
- Next two EPRs
- Date of rank/TAFMSD
- AQE scores — which can be retaken

Under QRP, applications can be submitted the first day of your 35th month through the last day of the 43rd month for four-year enlistees.

For six-year enlistees, you may submit your application on the first day of the 59th month through the last day of the 67th month.

Second term and career airmen, defined as all others, can apply for the NCO Retraining Program at any time, but the retraining goals shift more to Air Force needs.



**Senior Master Sgt.
 Mike Walljasper**
Career Assistance Advisor

The purpose of the NCORP is to balance the enlisted force through selective retraining of staff sergeants through master sergeants from overage AFSCs to shortage AFSCs.

The current shortage AFSCs are listed on the AFPC Web site under 'retraining'. I wanted to list them here, but the list changes daily.

The key is to be flexible with job choices. Consider other job opportunities and the more choices you provide, the better the chances of getting something you want.

In addition, there are other opportunities in special duty categories. These include military training instructor, recruiting service, ROTC Detachment duty, technical school instructors and student training advisors.

Stop by my office today if you are interested. My office is located in the Education Center, Bldg. 557, or I can be reached by email at: Michael.Walljasper@brooks.af.mil or by phone at 536-5528.



Local civic efforts earn USAFSAM instructors TABC Project Save awards

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Four U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine instructors have recently earned the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's prestigious Project Save Award for their dramatically effective civic work in 2003 that helped educate students about the consequences of drinking and driving.

TABC officials made the award presentations recently at a San Antonio restaurant as part of a surprise ceremony that honored a member of the San Antonio Police Department and USAFSAM's Expeditionary Medical Support course instructors Capt. Britt Barkley, Master Sgt. Richard Madrid, Tech. Sgt. Rudy Palacios and Staff Sgt. Gerardo Gomez.

"The Project Save Award recognizes individuals for their contributions to a statewide effort to promote DWI awareness and prevention," said Captain Barkley, noting that USAFSAM honorees were recognized for supporting the Shattered Dreams program.

Skilled in moulage special effects makeup, the EMEDS crew volunteered to make up students as traffic accident victims.

Their work supports a grassroots program that was inaugurated in 1998 by a coalition of civic leaders who had responded to sobering statistics — Bexar County led the state in alcohol sales to minors and Texas led the nation in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents.

"We were involved in three (Shattered Dreams)

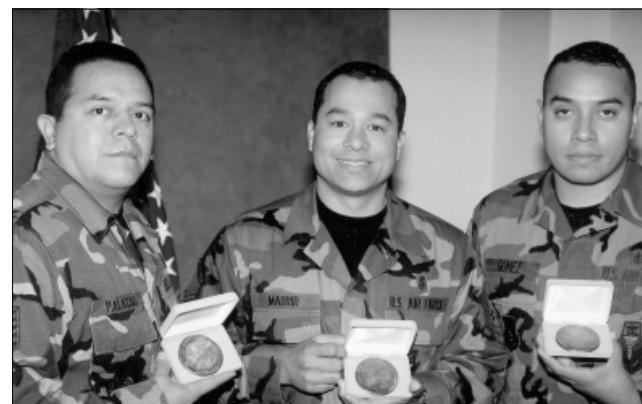


Photo by Rudy Purificato

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Expeditionary Medical Support course instructors, from left, Tech. Sgt. Rudy Palacios, Master Sgt. Richard Madrid and Staff Sgt. Gerardo Gomez display their Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's Project Save Awards. The instructors earned the awards for civic work to help educate local students about drinking and driving. They were awarded during a recent surprise ceremony in San Antonio. Capt. Britt Barkley also received the medal.

“ The Project Save Award recognizes individuals for their contributions to a statewide effort to promote DWI awareness and prevention.

“ Capt. Britt Barkley
USAFSAM

events last year at Jefferson, Brackenridge and Floresville high Schools," said Sergeant Palacios, who has supported the program since its inception.

"It's a great honor. It's the first time we've received the award," he said.

No Brooks worker had previously earned the TABC award for community service.

The USAFSAM honorees plan to continue volunteering their time and talent to help prevent teenagers from driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Sergeant Palacios said he and his colleagues will be supporting this year's first Shattered Dreams event in March at Taft High School.

Simulated space crammed with record-setting Challenger missions

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Challenger Learning Center of San Antonio made history Jan. 7 with a record-setting four-mission day that planners never believed would be "mission impossible," but rather simulated space's version of "mission control."

The feat was a first for the Brooks-based facility and is believed to have never been accomplished before by other centers in a worldwide network of about 40 Challenger Centers.

"It may be a record among centers with one set of simulators. It was certainly a first for this center," said Shelia Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director.

The milestone was reported to the Center's regional office in Kansas City and forwarded to national headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

"It was unique to have four missions back-to-back with fourth, fifth and sixth graders," Mrs. Klein said, explaining that normally only sixth graders participate in the two-hour mission sessions. St. Luke's Episcopal School and McNair School were involved in the history-making day that began at 8:30 a.m. and ended after 5 p.m. with the last mission.

A scheduling oddity resulted in the record-setting event that kept the center's flight directors quite busy. "Our priority is to schedule public schools for missions. Our primary customers are school districts in San Antonio and Bexar County," said Mrs. Klein. Sometimes open dates are created when districts can't participate. Consequently, private schools take advantage of those dates.

While the center's flight directors had little time for breaks, they maintained the same level of performance in support of student astronauts they normally exhibit during two-mission days, she said.



ACQ Now continuous learning tracker

Mandatory requirements for personnel in acquisition-coded positions

By Juanita Jasper

311th Human Systems Wing Human Resources

Acquisition personnel currently assigned to acquisition-coded positions now have a mandatory program to help track their continuous learning activities.

The ACQ Now Continuous Learning Program targets acquisition workforce members who need to track their CL points to meet Air Force and DoD requirements.

ACQ Now automatically screens workforce members' personnel records to verify acquisition workforce status and certification levels when a member applies for CL credit. Graduation from Defense Acquisition University courses is automatically credited to the CL point total.

In 2002, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition and technology established new requirements for acquisition workforce members to participate in job-related continuous learning activities to stay current in their functional specialty, learn the latest agile acquisition initiatives,

and improve their leadership and management skills.

Every acquisition workforce member has a goal to earn 40 continuous learning points per year and is required to earn 80 CL points every two years.

A variety of events earn points, including DAU and Air Force courses, major command courses, locally-offered training, professional conferences, educational activities and certain on-the-job and experiential assignments.

The Air Force is committed to helping all acquisition workforce members stay up-to-date in both their technical discipline and the acquisition professional development.

To assist members, the Air Force has developed the ACQ Now Continuous Learning Web site at: <https://www.attrrs.army.mil/channels/acqnowcl>. The ACQ — CL Web site advertises continuous learning activities and encourages on-line registration and tracking.

By using the site, members can register for upcoming activities and obtain credit for activities already attended. They can also submit requests to participate in upcoming events, as well as keep track of points already earned.

Call 536-5440 with questions or for additional information on the ACQ Now program.

Dorms

Continued from Page 1

The Brooks Dorm Council spearheaded the initiative after meeting with enlisted residents.

"The Dorm Council addressed issues of concern that led to positive improvements," said Tech. Sgt. Glen Watts, base dorm manager. Sergeant Watts said major Bldg. 719 improvements include nearly doubling the size of the outdoor pavilion that features renovated restrooms and a new brick barbecue grill. The second floor dayroom conversion includes the installation of a home indoor theater equipped with a wide-screen television projection system.

Other improvements included new

carpeting and recliners for all resident rooms. Additionally, the first floor game room has been improved with the installation of X-Box Play Station 2 and surround sound.

Colonel Travis thanked the 67th Information Operations Wing, headquartered at Lackland Air Force Base, for its contributions to the Bldg. 719 renovation project. This parent organization of the Brooks-based 68th Information Operations Squadron partially funded the installation of the facility's security fence and controlled entry gate. Sergeant Watts said the dorm council is considering another proposal to repaint the aging facility, built in 1957.

Hiring

Continued from Page 1

of 10 veterans hired in government during fiscal 2002 worked in professional occupations, the report said, while 25.8 percent of new veteran hires worked in administrative jobs and 19 percent took blue-collar jobs.

The percentage of disabled veterans in the federal civilian work force was 4.5 percent in fiscal 2002, a drop of 0.1 percent from the previous year, the OPM report said. However, the percentage of veterans in the federal work force with 30 percent or more disability in fiscal 2002 was up 1.9 percent over the previous year.

The Defense Department hired 21,657 veterans in fiscal 2002, representing 45.6 percent of all new veteran hires across the federal govern-

ment that year, the report said.

Non-DoD federal organizations with the highest percentages of new-veteran hires in fiscal 2002 included the Veterans Affairs Department with 23.5 percent and the Justice Department with 19.7 percent. In OPM's fiscal 2002 congressional report, Ms. James said she was proud of federal agencies' efforts in hiring veterans.

"With our military actively engaged in the fight against terrorism, we must not falter in our commitment to the employment of these dedicated Americans," Ms. James said. "Nor can we forget that disabled veterans are heroes who have paid a price so dear that it will stay with them for the rest of their lives."



Brooks Clinic introduces new hours, facilities

By Steve VanWert

Staff writer

The 311th Medical Squadron welcomed in 2004 with a New Year's Resolution Celebration that served as a grand re-opening of the Brooks Clinic. The ceremony marked the clinic's greatly improved facilities and expanded hours.

"The planning for the upgrades began more than a year ago," said Lt. Col. James Paukert, chief of dental services and deputy clinic commander. "Now that it's complete, we're really proud of the results. The clinic is easier to navigate, more attractive to the eye and able to provide maximum support to Brooks people."

Renovations included new vinyl tile in all the corridors, new wall coverings, fresh paint, and the addition of a wheelchair ramp and awning to the main entrance. The Public Health office moved to the clinic and the life skills center relocated to the old

command post building next to the clinic. The parking lot was enlarged and repaved. Other changes include an upgrade to the electrical and information systems.

"One of the biggest changes, though, is our new hours," said the colonel. Previously, the clinic was open different hours on different days and closed early on Wednesdays for training. The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. everyday, with training accomplished between 7 and 8 a.m., before the clinic opens.

"The clinic looks terrific," said 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Col. Tom Travis. "The 311th Med Squadron is leading the Air Force in fitness attitude and is the heart and soul of the base."

"The Brooks Clinic has stepped up proudly and taken the lead in supporting not only the base populace, but also the new Air Force Fitness Program," said Col. Travis. "They live up to their billing as the Best Little Clinic in Texas."

Brooks one of several bases picked for national drug use survey

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE (AFPC) — Some Air Force family members may be asked to take the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The annual survey is legitimate and voluntary, according to Charlie Hamilton, chief of the Air Force Surveys Section, and people associated with the Air Force can participate in the survey, if they choose to do so.

The survey samples those 12 and older in the U.S. civilian population to provide various agencies estimates of tobacco, alcohol and drug use.

This survey is done by geographic region and sometimes Air Force bases are within the selected regions," said Mr. Hamilton.

The survey is conducted by the Re-

search Triangle Institute, he said. A variety of health related questions appear in the survey questionnaire.

Many government and private agencies use the data for a wide variety of purposes such as determining effectiveness of drug control strategies or the estimating demand for drug treatment facilities, he said.

Data collection was scheduled to begin this month and all results are confidential, Mr. Hamilton said. The fact that military family members participated in the study will not be reflected in the results.

The Air Force Surveys Section at Randolph Air Force Base is responsible for coordinating this survey with the selected Air Force bases.

More information is available at DSN 665-2448 or 210-565-2448.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

National Children's Dental Health Month began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Oh., in 1941. The first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day by the American Dental Association was held in 1949; and it was extended to the month-long event we know now in 1981. Now messages reach millions of people in communities across the country.

Children's teeth are meant to last a lifetime and a healthy smile is important to a child's self-esteem. Although fluoridated water, which we now have in San Antonio, will reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in the future, it is still important that parents and care-givers teach children to

brush and floss, watch what they eat and how often they snack and have regular dental examinations. With proper care, teeth can remain healthy and strong.

The Brooks Dental Clinic will recognize Children's Dental Health Month with a contest, using the dental staff as models. It's up to you to "Pick your nose" and match it to the staff member. Entry blanks are available in the dental clinic waiting room. The person with the most correct answers wins a prize. The contest runs from Feb. 2 to 26.

Contact Erla Naumann, preventive dentistry officer at Brooks, at 536-1846 for more information on dental health.

Air Force identifies operational shortfalls

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials released a list of operational shortfalls recently. The list came from a two-year analysis of current and future warfighting effects and capabilities, a process called a capabilities review and risk assessment.

The assessment identified and prioritized critical operational shortfalls in such areas as:

— Global information grid. There is a need for a globally interconnected capability that collects, processes, stores, disseminates and manages information on demand to warfighters, policy makers and support people.

— Battle-space management. There is a need to implement effects-based planning and provide a common operational picture to the warfighter.

— Fleeting and mobile targets. There is a need to reduce the time needed to find, fix, track and target hostile forces.

— Battle-damage assessment. There is a need for a toolkit and clarified definitions for commanders to determine effects-based decisions across the battle space.

— Base defense. There is a need to

clarify roles and responsibilities between the Air Force and sister services.

— Cargo airlift. There is a need for a study to review requirements and prepare for possible force-structure changes.

"These are some of the key examples on a corporate list of 50 prioritized capability areas," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Goldfein, director of operational capability requirements.

"These priorities present the most significant and immediate Air Force-wide capability objectives," he said.

The assessment, a transition from the old quarterly acquisition program review, is a new review process across six Air Force chief of staff-directed concept of operations areas.

The areas include: global strike, global response, homeland security, (Department of Defense), joint and Air Force planning."

The key to this process is to change from a threat-based, system-by-system requirements process toward an analysis methodology focusing on capability versus individual-weapons systems or programs."



It took 'rocket science' to get Dr. Richard Miller to Brooks

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Sometimes it does take rocket science to figure things out. At least that is what Dr. Richard Miller used to eventually find his career path as one of Brooks City-Base's most respected senior scientists.

Dr. Miller, who retires Jan. 30 after having spent his entire 40-year Air Force career here, knew as a youngster that a scientific career was preferable to doing farm chores while shivering through wet Oregon winters.

"I grew up on a farm. Those Pacific Northwest storms made it awfully cold milking Jersey cows," said Dr. Miller, who is the Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate's chief of the Directed Energy Bioeffects Division.

The youngest of three children born in Portland, Oreg., to farmer Clay Carl Miller and former teacher Ruth Morrison, Dr. Miller was raised with a strong work ethic and belief that education held endless possibilities. The 70-year-old scientist had previously benefited from the influence of college educated parents and older siblings. "I liked chemistry and the challenge of engineering," he said. Dr. Miller's early mentor was his paternal Aunt Nettie. "She took a strong interest in me after my mother died. She



Dr. Richard Miller

was very supportive and encouraged me to go to school."

After graduating from high school in 1951, Dr. Miller attended his parent's alma mater, Oregon State University, where he earned a chemical engineering degree. "I became a rocket scientist," admits Dr. Miller about launching a career in 1955 as a research engineer with North American-Rockwell Corporation's Rocketdyne Division in Canoga Park, Calif. "I was involved in the test and development of control systems for large liquid-propellant rocket engines," he recalls. His work supported the development of the Redstone, Thor, Jupiter and Atlas rockets during a Cold War period when the Air Force was building its nuclear deterrent. "It was exciting work," Dr. Miller said, referring specifically to the Atlas rocket's liquid-oxygen engine control systems.

In late 1957, Dr. Miller returned to Oregon State to earn a masters degree. By then, the Russians had

demonstrated their expertise in rocketry by launching Sputnik, an earth-orbiting satellite that ushered in the space age and a space race with the United States.

The seeds for Dr. Miller's future Air Force career were sown at the University of Minnesota where he earned a doctorate in chemical engineering. "The Air Force recruited me," he said, referring to the work he did for Dr. Henry Tsuchiya, a microbiologist on the university's chemical engineering staff. "He was involved with bioengineering. He had a NASA grant to do biological regeneration for potential application for long-term manned space flight."

Earlier work in this field had been conducted by U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine scientists at Randolph and later Brooks Air Force Bases. During the late 1950s and early 1960s USAFSAM researchers pioneered space cabin experiments that involved reproducing various ecosystems for astronaut survival on long-duration space missions.

Dr. Miller's reputation grew while working for the Chevron Research Corporation in Richmond, Calif., from 1962 to 1964. There, he was involved in the research and development of catalytic cracking processes for refining heavy petroleum fractions into gasoline and other products.

By then, the Air Force's short-lived Manned Orbiting Laboratory program had begun with Brooks leading the research for what would have become America's first space station. The Air Force recruited Dr. Miller to initially work for USAFSAM's Environmental Systems Division. One of his earliest studies involved algae as both a food source and oxygen producer for space flight. By

1968 he and his scientific team were involved in space cabin contaminant analysis. In the early 1970s, Dr. Miller employed his previous experience with rocket engine propellants to support a NASA environmental study to determine whether chemicals released from solid propellant rocket launches were potentially harmful.

Among Dr. Miller's career highlights are his contributions in the 1980s to the development of the F-16's Onboard Oxygen Generating System, known as OBOGS. He considers his recent AFRL work in biological effects of directed energy among his most significant Air Force contributions to scientific research. Dr. Miller's expertise and leadership have contributed to the development of test criteria for the airborne laser, advanced tactical laser and the active denial non-lethal weapon system. During his tenure here, his world-class scientific team earned the highest rating from the Scientific Advisory Board for their technical competence in directed energy bioeffects.

A man of seemingly unlimited energy, Dr. Miller doesn't plan to fade away. "I plan to get more involved with Habitat for Humanity," he said, noting that he swings a mean hammer. He also will continue tutoring as well as work to fulfill innumerable chores inspired by wife Mary Kathleen. He plans to fulfill these tasks using the same motivating philosophy that helped him throughout his career. "My dad told me that there are things about a job that you don't like, but you get paid for them; and there are things that you do like that you'd probably do for free."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900
Housing Office.....	533-5905
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket.....	533-9079
Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Grant applications accepted

The General Henry R. Arnold Education Grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of:

— Active duty, Title 10 Air National Guard/Reserve personnel on extended active duty, and Title 32 Guard/Reserve performing full-time active duty.

— Members who retired due to length of active duty service or disability, or retired Guard/Reserve with 20-plus qualifying years creditable for retired pay.

— Servicemembers deceased while on active duty or in retired status.

Spouses of active duty and Title 10 Guard/Reservists on extended duty stationed stateside, and surviving spouses of Air Force members who died while on active duty or in retired status are also eligible.

The grant will be awarded to a high school graduate enrolled or accepted as a full-time

undergraduate student in the 2004-2005 academic year. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. Contact the Family Support Center for details, or visit the Web site at: www.afas.org. Application deadline is March 12.

Separation and retirement

Jan. 28, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Bldg. 537—

This class is mandatory for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics include pre-separation, veterans benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE and financial planning for transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Smooth move

Feb. 10, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—

PCSing? Hear briefings from travel, legal, the clinic, finance, housing and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. The seminar is open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses.

PCS overseas

Feb. 10, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS/PCS by attending the Smooth Move seminar and staying for this class.

Sponsor training

Feb. 12, 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537—

In accordance with Air Force Instruction, sponsor training is mandatory for all first-time sponsors and those who haven't sponsored within a year. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.



536-3824

National Prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the Brooks Club. Former astronaut Charles Duke is scheduled as the guest speaker. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased through unit representatives or the Chapel office. The entire Brooks team is invited to participate in this event.

Contact the Chapel staff at 536-3824 for additional information.

Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Computer Accommodation Team comes to Brooks Mass is held each first Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

*Chapel schedule***Weekdays:**

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

Noon — Lifebuilders luncheon

6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education

9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult

10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church

6 p.m. — Protestant Praise and Worship service

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex.

Contact the Chapel staff for more information.



Base volunteers work to restore old mosque

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
506th Air Expeditionary Group

Despite the dumpy looking landscape filled with tree stumps, old barbed wire, concrete and rebar littering the grounds, and with windows broken out of the seemingly old building in desperate need of repair, members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group found a hidden jewel.

Through the leadership of the base chapel, contracting and civil engineers, and with the help of a large volunteer base, a 35-year old Sunni mosque will soon be operational once again, after having been abandoned for at least five years.

"A project like this with lasting impact generates the best in Air Force volunteerism," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Garvey said. "Finding a mosque is like finding a jewel. This is something that will last for a long time. It's really a labor of love."

The mosque was 'discovered' by Capt. Geary Pyles, 506th Air Expeditionary Group contracting officer, who asked Chaplain Garvey on Dec. 19 if it was possible to renovate the mosque.

Chaplain Garvey contacted Lt. Col. Dave Bossert, 506th AEG deputy commander for support, the next day seeking his approval. It was granted immediately.

After two weeks of coordination, the project was started Jan. 4 when Chief Master Sgt. Walter Poliansky, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron chief of operations, led a 12-person volunteer crew in cleaning up the grounds.

It was repeated a week later when over 30 volunteers showed up to assist in the efforts, which lasted until 12:28 p.m., when the base went to Alarm Red.

"The chaplain asked for some help, and we were looking for something to do to give back to the people. It's a worthwhile cause, and every-

one seems quite chipper about it," Chief Poliansky said.

He gives a lot of credit to his engineers.

"This is teamwork at its best when you get people from around the world over here leading the way," Chief Poliansky said. "We have people here representing Air Force bases worldwide from Cannon, F.E. Warren, Youngstown, Travis, Wright-Patterson, Andrews, Eielson and Kadena."

"Yet we couldn't do this without our heavy equipment operators, equipment shop guys, HVAC and structures crew and our firefighters," the chief said. "One more Sunday morning and we should have the grounds clean."

Capt. Ed Reder, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron mission systems flight commander started out his volunteer shift by removing dead trees and brush. He was grateful for the opportunity to help beautify Iraq.

"This helps the local people," the captain said. "When we give them back the mosque, it will be respectable looking, not trashy. I'm satisfied in knowing that we left it in better shape than when we got here."

Airman 1st Class Nicholas Matthewson, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, received an email from Chaplain Garvey asking for volunteers. He responded immediately.

"My New Year's resolution is to do something good every chance I get. Here I'm fulfilling it minute by minute," the airman said. "It's supposed to help bring services back to Iraq. It feels good helping others. It's a heart-warming experience here."

Tech. Sgt. David Minzie, 506th ECES who deployed here from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., made this a truly world-wide experience.

Minzie is a native of Ocho Rios, Jamaica, who came to the United States in 1991, and joined the Air Force two years later.

"I figure that when I leave here, this is going to be one of my marks," Sergeant Minzie said.

"When I get on the airplane, this is one thing that I'll remember. It's something I'm passionate about. We are making a difference in the lives of Iraqis."

He knows he shares the same feelings as his squadron-mates.



Courtesy photo

Volunteers from the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, including Capt. Ed. Reder, left, who is deployed from Brooks, move a tree stump during a recent clean-up effort at a mosque in Iraq.

"A lot of the guys are passionate about it. The guys who are here really want to be here," he added.

Staff Sgt. Tansa Ayazgok, Chaplain Garvey's assistant, is the volunteer coordinator in the effort.

"I believe it is important to keep the integrity of any religious building in tact," she said. "Since there are no active mosques on this base, when restored, this mosque will be used to provide opportunities for worship for the Muslims on this base."

She thanks the volunteers, especially those from the civil engineer squadron.

"Without CE, I doubt we would get

anything accomplished. CE has been awesome," the sergeant said.

Colonel Bossert is impressed with the enthusiasm that embraces this project. "This mosque is really important," he said. "You could see it on everyone's face. We are making the statement to the Iraqi people that we respect them."

The colonel added, "We do this because we respect the Iraqi people as human beings. We know what they faced when Saddam Hussein was in power. We want to help the Iraqi's return to normalcy and freedom."

"Part of returning to normalcy is the freedom to worship. We are giving them that," he concluded.



We SALUTE you!

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TROOPS



Education notes

By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

CLEP Testing

The College Board is retiring paper based CLEP exams in fiscal 2004. The following exams will be recalled Jan. 31, 2004: Social Sciences and History, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, Psychology, and Principles of Management. All other remaining subject exams will be retired March 31. Computer Based CLEP Exams are available at National Test Centers, but servicemembers cannot request a reimbursement at the present time for these tests.

The fee for DANTEs transcripts increased Oct. 1 for military members. The new fee is \$20. Also the cost of DSST exams for civilians increased to \$45.

The Brooks Education Services Office offers CLEP testing on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Fridays at 8 a.m. Call 536-3617 to reserve a seat.

CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for nominations for the Community College of the Air Force Spring 2004 graduation is Feb. 27. All nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by that date. Students who believe they are degree candidate need to contact Education Services at 536-3618 to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

ferred by the center.

Circuit Training is offered Mondays and Fridays at 5 p.m. This is a challenging combination of cardio aerobics and strength exercises.

Kickboxing/step is offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Kickboxing is an intense cardio and endurance workout that includes boxing and martial arts.

Step is offered Wednesdays at 5 p.m. Step is a workout utilizing basic step and creative combinations on an adjustable platform.

Hi/Low Plus is offered every Friday at 11:30 a.m. This is intense cardio movements on the floor using combinations and stretches topped off with some Salsa-style movements.

The classes last for an hour. Certified instructors are provided.

Brooks Club

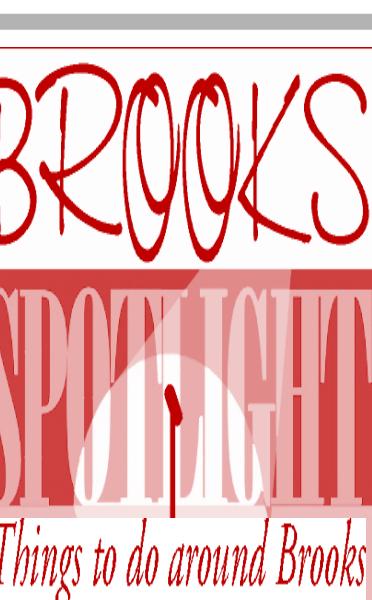
Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Super Bowl Sunday is just around the corner so start making plans with friends to stop by the club Feb. 1. Doors open at 4 p.m. Watch the game on a wide screen TV and enjoy free snacks during the game. Come out and cheer for your favorite team.

Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-5987

Breakfast tacos are available from 7:30-8:30 a.m. For only \$1 you can enjoy a potato and egg, bacon and egg, sausage and egg, ham and egg or bean and cheese. Each additional item is 25 cents. If you're not hungry for a taco



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Power Cycling is now offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classes are free but limited seating is available for the first 12 participants to sign up for each class. Participants must bring bottled water, a towel and an attitude to begin the ride of your life. Contact the staff for more details.

If you are not into Power Cycling stop by and participate in other classes of

National Graduate School

The National Graduate School will provide lunch to those who attend their introductory briefing Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. NGS offers a program to finish a bachelor's degree in one year and then to complete a masters degree in an additional year. The representative visits Brooks Wednesday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment or visit the NGS Web site at: www.NGS.edu.

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University offers graduate classes at Randolph Air Force Base in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, and Engineering Systems Management. Registration for the Spring term was Jan. 7 and 8. Classes start Jan. 12, and late registration begins Monday. The late registration fee is \$150. For information regarding St. Mary's graduate programs, call 658-4852. A graduate school representative is at the Brooks Education Center Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Upper Iowa University degrees

The Upper Iowa University Center coordinator's office at Brooks is open for appointments Monday through Friday. Visit the Web site: www.uiu.edu, call 536-4033 or e-mail brooks@uiu.edu. for more information.

Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information, call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

VA benefits

Personnel who would like information on their VA benefits account or would like to speak with an education case manager about VA education can call the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at 1-888-442-455, (1-888-GIBILL1), visit the website at: www.va.gov/education, or stop by the local VA field office at 3601 Bluemel in San Antonio. Information is also available on the

Brooks home page and at the Brooks Education and Training Center in Bldg. 558.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.

Montgomery GI Bill benefits

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400, from \$23,400 to \$28,800, for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while participants are on active duty. This is not a pay reduction, therefore, there is not a tax savings.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and elected to participate in the GI Bill. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era Chapter 30/34 or VEAP Convertees. For additional information, call 536-3618.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account: www.afvec.langley.af.mil. For more information call 536-3617.

Brooks Youth Services has taken up

this challenge. The contest runs until Feb. 9, and is open to all youth, ages 5-18 years, who are authorized to use Services facilities. Youth do not have to be members of the youth centers to participate. The objective of this program is to introduce youth to the lifetime sport of bowling, develop eye/motor coordination, provide positive motivation, and recognize personal achievements. The contest should be conducted for the spirit of personal growth and the enjoyment of physical challenge. Winners in each category will be sent a participation award.

Golf course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

The Brooks Golf Course now has cappuccino. Be one of the first to try the specialty coffees. Stop by seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until dusk.

Select from French Vanilla, Almond Amaretto or Butternut Cocoa.

Purchase a 12-ounce cup for 75 cents, 16-ounce cup for 85 cents or a 20-ounce cup for 95 cents. Bring in the coupon and get any size for the price of a 12-ounce cup. Keep your eyes open for Krispy Kreme doughnuts, too.

Child Development Center

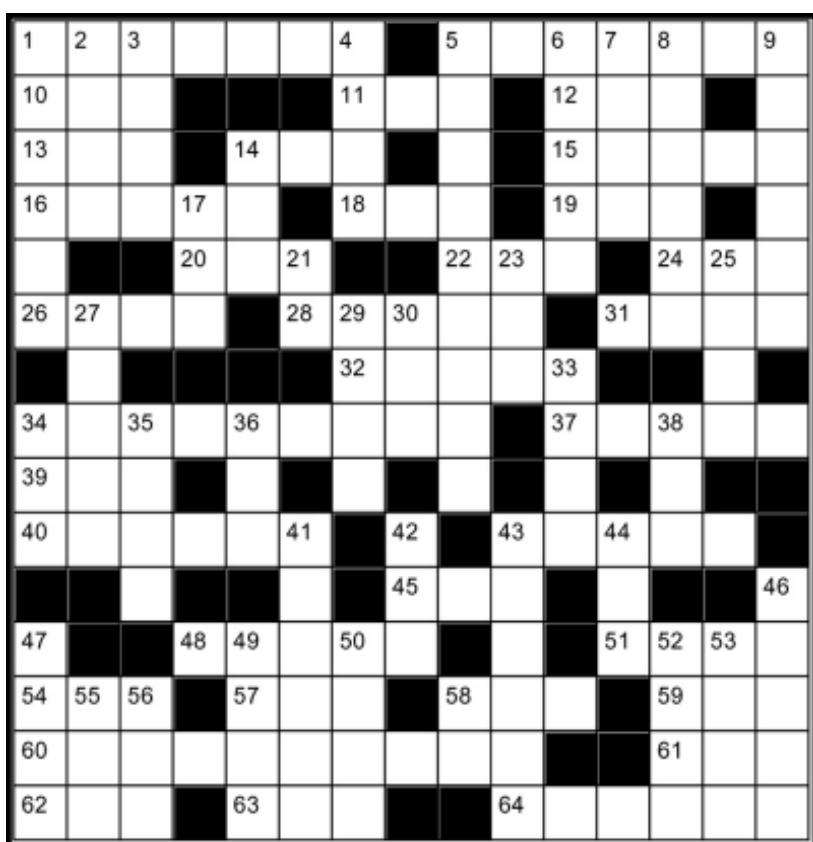
Bldg. 502, 536-2736

The Child Development Center renovation project is progressing as planned. The staff plans to host an open house in the spring in conjunction with the Children's Fair.



Hometown U.S. Air Force (Vol. 2)

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs



Solutions, Page 15

ACROSS

1. Maryland AFB home to 113th WG; a/c tail marking of DC
5. Alaska AFB home to 354th FW; a/c tail marking of AK
10. ____-jay Carson Daly
11. Sick
12. Aloha gift
13. Current space project (abbrev.)
14. City in south central Germany
15. Place to rest
16. From the Orient
18. See
19. Founding of a company (abbrev.)
20. Never
22. Nation wide radio (abbrev.)
24. Inventor Whitney
26. South Korean AB home to 51st FW; a/c tail marking of OS
28. Military trenching tool
31. Greek god of love
32. Worship
34. Colorado AFB home to 50th SW
37. Illinois AFB home to 375th AW
39. Car repair organization (abbrev.)
40. Nebraska AFB home to 55 FW; a/c tail marking of OF
43. California AFB home to 9th Recon Wing; a/c tail marking of BB
45. Neither's partner
48. Slang for 1K
51. Statement given during enlistment/commissioning
54. Stock offer (abbrev.)
57. Lyrical poem
58. Military commander's place of responsibility (abbrev.)
59. School in Carbondale, Ill. (abbrev.)
60. Arkansas AFB home to 314th AW
61. Everything
62. Lord of the Rings character
63. California Army fort

64. Try (as in eating)

DOWN

1. Italy AB home to 31st FW; a/c tail marking of AV
2. Untouchable Elliot ____
3. Lucy's partner
4. Alike
5. Alaska AFB home to 3rd WG; a/c tail marking of AK
6. Bugs' nemesis
7. DiCaprio and Burmester
8. Tot watcher
9. Nevada AFB home to 57th WG; a/c tail marking of WA
14. Card game
17. Actress ____-Margaret
21. Secret clearance type (abbrev.)
23. Each
25. Pirate's bounty
27. Title for Hon. James Roche (abbrev.)
29. USAF helicopter MH-53J ____ Hawk
30. Summer drink
33. Italian family who governed Ferrara (13-16 century)
34. Type of military security officer (abbrev.)
35. Hoist
36. Football stat (abbrev.)
38. Car fluid
41. Someone who swaps goods
42. Finish
43. Texas AFB home to 311 HSW
44. Bother
46. Greenland AB home to 821st ABG
47. Arouse
49. Candy brand
50. Geek
52. Military for fast
53. Plow
55. Sewing item
56. Giants great Mel ____
58. Tail marking for aircraft assigned to 177th FW (NJ)

NEWS briefs

Promotion ceremony

The monthly enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the Brooks Club. The ceremony honors January and February's promotees. Stop by and congratulate these enlisted troops.

Scholarship applications accepted

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian or family member community. Independent evaluators judge 600-800 word essays. Applications are available at Brooks, Kelly USA, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases or Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices, or family support centers. Applications may also be downloaded from www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., Feb. 5. The scholarships range from \$500-\$1,000 and will be awarded at the scholarship luncheon, scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Feb. 26, at Sidneys. For details, call 1st Lt. Lorrie Carter 536-4896 or 1st Lt. Goldie Boone at 536-6727.

also contains a substantial collection of recipes from people at Brooks and in the San Antonio community.

The book is a vinyl, three-ring binder, featuring the Sidney Brooks Memorial eagle on the cover. The cookbook is \$18 plus tax. BHF Gift Shop is located in the Aeromedical Evacuation Annex, adjacent to Hangar 9. Gift Shop hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 531-9767 or e-mail bhf@satx.rr.com.

Civilian awards breakfast

The Civilian of the 4th quarter and year awards breakfast is scheduled for Feb. 19 at 7:30 a.m. at the Brooks Club. Tickets are available through unit ticket monitors and must be purchased by Feb. 5.

Fort Sam garage sale

Fort Sam Houston has a Post Garage Sale scheduled for Feb. 7, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MacArthur Parade Pavilion parking lot on Stanley Road. The event is open to the public and accessible from the Walters Street entrance off IH-35. Call 221-2307 for additional information.

Toastmasters

Hangar 9 Toastmasters meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 559. Toastmasters provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment to develop communication and leadership skills, foster confidence and personal growth. Call 2nd Lt. Laura Chavez at 536-2086 for additional details.



Smith

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Smith II

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Assistant Club Manager, 311th
Mission Support Group Services

WHAT IS MY JOB?:
I manage Club Sidney's and the subsistence in kind meal card program.

BIRTHDAY:
May 15, 1958

HOMETOWN:
Chicago

FAMILY STATUS:
Married with one daughter

NICKNAME I CALL MYSELF:
"Mr. Nice Guy"

PERSONAL MOTTO:
You catch more flies with honey."

INSPIRATIONS:
My father and uncle

HOBBIES:
Sports and the arts

I JOINED THE MILITARY:
because I wanted to travel.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:
is to pad the Thrift Savings Plan!

ULTIMATE GOAL:
is to send my daughter to college.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY:
I'd pay off my mortgage and buy more property.

FAVORITE MUSIC:
Lincoln Park, Rush and all jazz

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:
*keeping my mother comfortable and happy.
(If you knew my mother you'd understand.)*

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:
my 11 year-old daughter.

Feature



Brooks Personality PROFILE

Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

'Mr. Nice Guy'

By Steve VanWert
Staff writer

Tech. Sgt. Alphonso Smith II is a nice guy. As a matter of fact, he's "Mr. Nice Guy." Just ask his 11-year-old daughter.

"I'm the guy who gives quarters to the people in the street who say they're down on their luck," he said. "I'm an easy mark. Not long ago, I was driving my daughter somewhere and we were stopped at a stop sign. An old woman came up to the car and said she needed money. I gave her \$5 and she tried to give me an old cell phone in exchange. I told her if she needed the money, to go ahead and take it. Maybe she could sell the phone to someone else. As we were sitting there, my daughter turned to me and asked why I did that. I told her that it doesn't hurt to be nice to people."

But it wasn't just a case of being Mr. Nice Guy. It was an example of passing along. It seems that when Sergeant Smith was merely a teenager growing up in Chicago, his car wouldn't start one winter night.

"It was so cold, like 50 degrees below zero, that my car battery froze up," he said. "I was just a kid and didn't know what to do when a woman drove up and asked if I needed some help. She got out of her nice warm car and into the freezing night and helped me hook up jumper cables so we could get my car started. I've always remembered that. It doesn't hurt to help."

Sergeant Smith graduated from Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights in 1976. His uncle, who was vice president of business and finance for South

Carolina State University, helped him get a scholarship and soon he found himself on the diving team.

"I'd have liked to play basketball, but the team was full," he said, "so I started diving. The first part of the season, I was really bad. But after a lot of training and practice, I actually got pretty good."

But still, there was something missing from his life. One fateful day, he went to visit a friend at Clemson University.

"It was 4 a.m. and there wasn't anything open except a donut shop and a recruiting office," he said. "I went into the recruiter's. It was completely a spur-of-the-moment deal. All I knew was that I wanted to travel and the Air Force would help me do it."

And he traveled. His first assignment after basic training was to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., then on to Clark Air Base in the Philippines for four years; soon on to F.E. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyo.

A highlight of that tour was meeting his wife of 11 years.

"I loved Frontier Days in Cheyenne," he said. "It was my first experience with rodeo."

Further assignments took him to Hurlburt Field in Florida, overseas to Lajes Field and to Buechel Air Base in Germany, and finally to Brooks City-Base.

Although he began his career in the Air Force Commissary System, he was now part of Services, thanks to a reorganization. In Germany, he managed the club, tickets and tours, the shoppette and the summer youth program. Here at Club Sidney's, it's a little less complicated.

"Basically, Sidney's is only open on Fridays," he said. "We cater

primarily to the younger airmen on base who eat meals through the subsistence in kind meal card program, but everyone is welcome," he said. "We're open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

"I really enjoy it here. The employees do a good job; my job is easy. I especially love to work with Anastacio Guitron, our head chef. We call him 'Mr. G.' He's nuts."

This quiet, easy-to-smile non-commissioned officer has a flashier side, though. He's a heavy metal fan.

"I just love the old Ozzie," he said, "and Lincoln Park and Rush. When I was in Germany, I got to attend 'Oz Fest,' which lasted a week. It was awesome. I listened and loved everything. We stayed in tents and they had metal bands on three stages. It was huge! And they were selling everything, shirts and caps and CDs. If it had a band name on it, they were selling it."

Sergeant Smith is coming up on his 20-year-anniversary in the Air Force, but hasn't spent much time thinking about retirement.

"It's nice to know that I have another option in life," he said, "but I don't have any immediate plans to retire. I own some land in Florida, and my mother is in a retirement home there, so I'll probably retire to the Florida Panhandle one of these days."

"My immediate plans call for me to keep saving money so we can send our daughter to college. That's why I was so happy to see the Thrift Savings Plan expanded to include the military. I'm putting as much as I can into it."

What more could you expect from "Mr. Nice Guy?"



PROFILES IN TIME

A Centennial of Flight series

Lindbergh's Brooks training part of legend's aviation legacy

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

(Editor's note: Since the Wright Brothers launched the age of powered flight, countless aviators have greatly contributed to humanity's progress. Discovery pays tribute to several Brooks Field and U.S. Air Force aviation pioneers in this multi-part series that commemorates the first century of flight.)

None of Charles Augustus Lindbergh's Brooks Field classmates had any idea that the introverted and seemingly aloof "flying cadet" would become immortal as one of America's greatest aviation legends.

Nevertheless, some of them knew he had a burning desire to fly, no matter the sacrifice.

"I knew Lindbergh. He lived in my barracks. He liked to fly, had a certain flair for it. He was smart, but quiet," recalls then 93-year-old William Ochsner during a 1996 *Discovery* interview. Ochsner, who was in the primary flight training class ahead of Lindbergh, was impressed by the young aviator's dedication.

"On Saturdays, most cadets would go downtown, but Lindbergh went to Stinson Field to practice flying," Mr. Ochsner said.

Lindbergh would also "burn the midnight oil" studying for the 70-plus

exams that were part of Primary Flying School requirements.

Since its inception in 1922, the Brooks Field school was notoriously tough on would-be pilots with a 50 percent washout rate. Cadets washed out if they failed two tests. Ochsner, a washout, did not follow Lindbergh's example to study diligently.

Lindbergh sometimes spent entire nights using the latrine lights to study for exams. The previously undisciplined Lindbergh wrote in his memoirs, "The Army schools taught me what I had never learned before — how to study, even subjects in which I had no interest. For the first time in my experience, school and life became both rationally and emotionally connected."

Lindbergh's Brooks Field epiphany was a turning point in the life of a young man who had earlier flunked out of college. Lindbergh excelled at Brooks, finishing second in his class. More importantly, he survived the regimen, one of only 32 cadets from an original class of 104 to graduate. First in his class at Kelly Field, he was one of 19 from the original group to graduate from the Air Service Advanced Flying School.

His journey to Brooks on a non-stop route to aviation glory began out of his need for solitude. Born to Swedish immigrants in 1902, Lindbergh found solitude in flying.

In a letter printed by author A. Scott Berg in his biography about the aviation legend, Lindbergh wrote, "My father was greatly concerned about my plans. He spoke of the danger of aviation, and told me there would always be a place for me in his business if I wanted it; but he did not argue against my decision."

The senior Lindbergh helped support his son's aviation career by paying for civilian flying lessons and underwriting the purchase of



"The Army schools taught me what I had never learned before — how to study, even subjects in which I had no interest. For the first time in my experience, school and life became both rationally and emotionally connected."

Charles Lindbergh
Aviation legend

his offspring's first plane, a World War I surplus Curtiss JN 4-D "Jenny" biplane.

Lindbergh launched his career in 1923 as a barnstormer, initially working as a wing-walking stuntman, skydiver and mechanic. He enlisted in the Army to fly more modern and powerful planes, with hopes of becoming a scout pilot.

When he arrived at Brooks Field March 15, 1924, he was the most experienced pilot among his classmates, having amassed more than 1,000 hours primarily as a barnstormer and air races competitor.

Lindbergh's memoir's admission that military training helped him learn precision flying techniques was not lost on Brooks Field aircraft mechanic John Stutts and his wife, the former Lanell Flanders.

"Lindbergh landed at Camp Wood, located 50 miles north of Uvalde, Texas. My uncle owned a hardware store there. Lindbergh was trying to take off in a flat area by the store. He ran his plane into the store and damaged it," recalled Stutts' 90-year-old wife during a 1997 *Discovery* interview.

The modified Jenny that Lindbergh had trouble with at Camp Wood was a Canadian-built Canuck nicknamed "Yellow Bird." Lindbergh had misjudged by four inches the clearance between his plane's wings and a telephone pole.

Following that incident, Lindbergh reported to Brooks.

"He landed his plane at the side of air repair. They (officers) ordered him to get his plane out of there,"

recalled then 99-year-old Stutts. Lindbergh housed "Yellow Bird" at a Stinson Field hangar nicknamed "Old Barn."

Lindbergh earned his wings and commission in the Air Service Reserve Corps in March 1925. He later pursued a civilian career initially with flying circuses based at Lambert Field in St. Louis. By 1926, Lindbergh was flying domestic airmail routes.

Lured by the challenge of becoming the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, Lindbergh secured financial backing from St. Louis businessmen for his epic voyage May 20-21, 1927.

He became "The Lone Eagle" flying The Spirit of St. Louis from New York's Roosevelt Field on Long Island to Paris. He covered the 3,614-mile trip in 33 and a half hours, becoming the most celebrated living person in history.

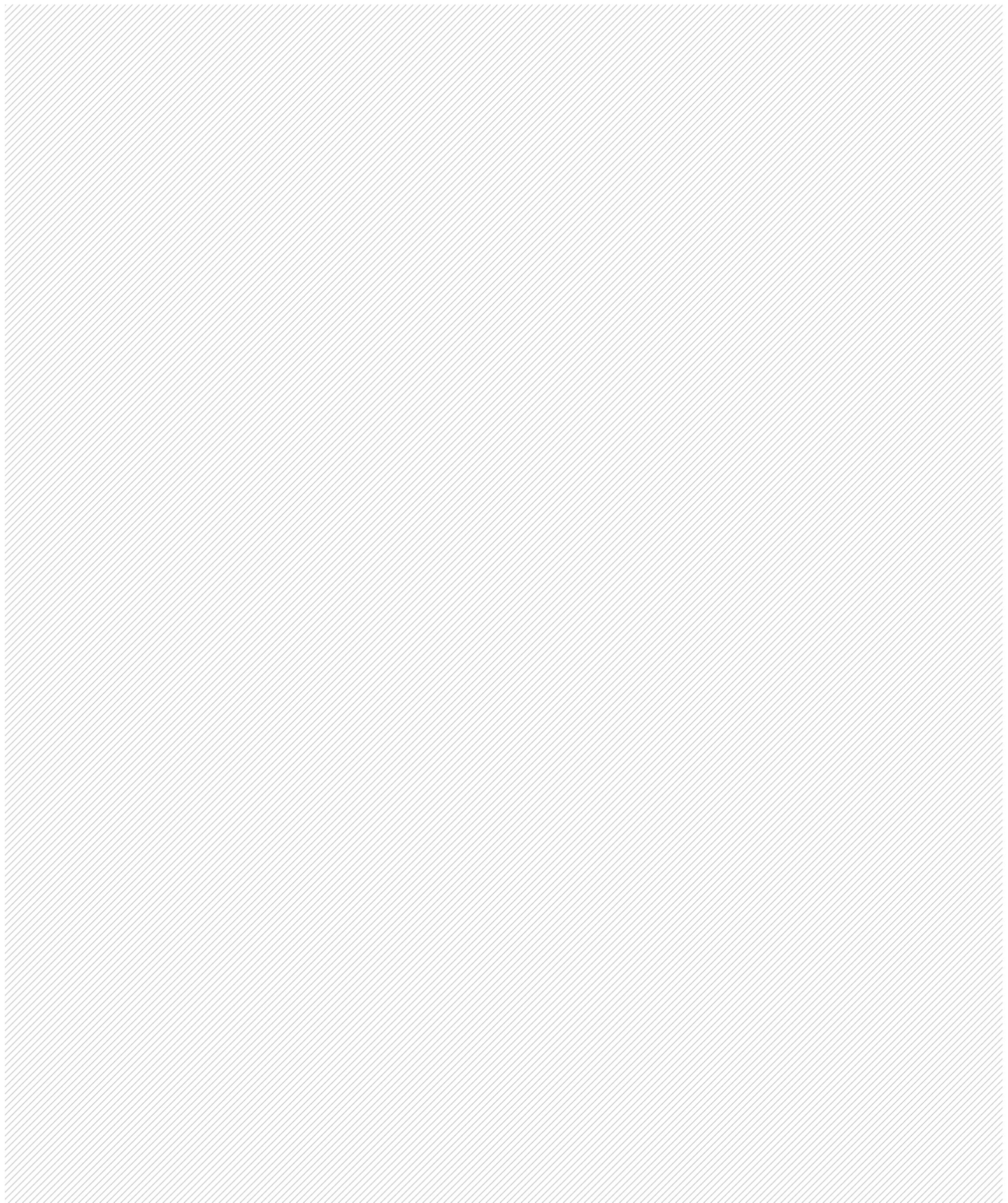
"I was astonished at the effect my successful landing in France had on the nations of the world. To me it was like a match lighting a bonfire," recalled Lindbergh.

Years later, Lindbergh contributed much more to aviation history than his monumental 1927 achievement. He helped launch America's space program by helping secure funding for Dr. Robert Goddard's pioneering rocket research.



Courtesy photo

Charles Lindbergh with his famous Spirit of St. Louis plane during a 1927 visit to Tucson, Ariz.





Wilford Hall Medical Center holds OB open house

By 2nd Lt. Benjamin Silva
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Having a baby is an unforgettable experience and making a decision on which medical provider and hospital to use for maternity care can be difficult. Wilford Hall Medical Center is helping military families make that decision easier by inviting them to tour their remodeled birthing center.

The Maternity Care Open House, Jan. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Hauth Birthing Center, located on the hospitals fifth floor, is open to all eligible beneficiaries.

The event includes briefings, a video, information booths, tours and a question and answer session. Briefings are scheduled for 10 a.m., and 2 and 6:30 p.m. Tours of the birthing center are planned throughout the day. Refreshments will be served and free prizes given away.

Booths will offer information on various programs for new parents, such as the hospital's pediatric services, parent support group, Bundles for Babies, Tricare, immunizations, lactation consultation, and more. Open house participants can also view a video, created from a maternity patient's point of view, that highlights these programs.

The Hauth Birthing Center is the first of its kind in the Department of Defense. The center provides care through the entire birthing process, from labor to discharge, in one room. This prevents moving new mothers from room to room as they go through the various stages of the birth of their child.

The birthing center has a private room and bath for each mother and baby. In addition, the spouse or significant other is welcome to stay for the entire hospital experience in the same room.

The hospital offers custom-fit prenatal education, convenient parking for OB patients, sibling classes and comprehensive pain management programs.

Senior-level maternity staff will be on hand to welcome visitors to the open house and answer questions. Col. William Barth, 859th Medical Operations Squadron commander; Lt. Col. Mike Gordon, chief of Obstetrics Services; Lt. Col. Beth Ewing, Maternal Child Flight commander; and other health representatives will provide information on the many programs and services available only to Wilford Hall military mothers-to-be and their families.

For additional information about the OB open house, contact Janet Dyer at 292-3706.

Hometown U.S. Air Force solutions (Vol. 1)

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Youth sports icon: a man of action, not words

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

He is a man of few words when it comes to getting things done for Brooks youth sports. To those who have learned to rely on him as a sort of 'man-of-action figure,' Larry Flores has never wavered from his commitment and dedication to helping kids fulfill their athletic dreams.

For more than a decade, this youth sports director has sacrificed countless hours of sleep and much time away from an understanding and supportive family to manage a highly successful youth sports program.

"I like to make it nice, especially for the kids. I want them to be recognized," said Mr. Flores, a modest and unassuming professional who on most weekends can be seen scampering around the base's athletic venues. The "nice" part to which he refers translates into mental and physical labor: picking up trash and debris to get playing fields ready, hauling and setting up equipment, creating league and post-season schedules, issuing uniforms, recruiting and providing training for players, coaches and parent volunteers and spending more time on the phone than telemarketers while coordinating an endless number of sports-related activities. Mr. Flores also schedules team photo sessions and organizes post-season sports awards banquets and picnics, writes newspaper copy for event and promotions and arranges for event concessions and awards.

His perpetual fatigue appears to dissolve momentarily every time he hosts an event, such as the youth basketball season opening ceremonies held to a packed house at the fitness center gym Jan. 9.

The nighttime extravaganza that featured a smoke machine, cheerleaders, music and unique "special effects" spotlighting was his creation, one of several similar celebrations that annually introduces players, coaches and parent volunteers to a legion of youth sports supporters.

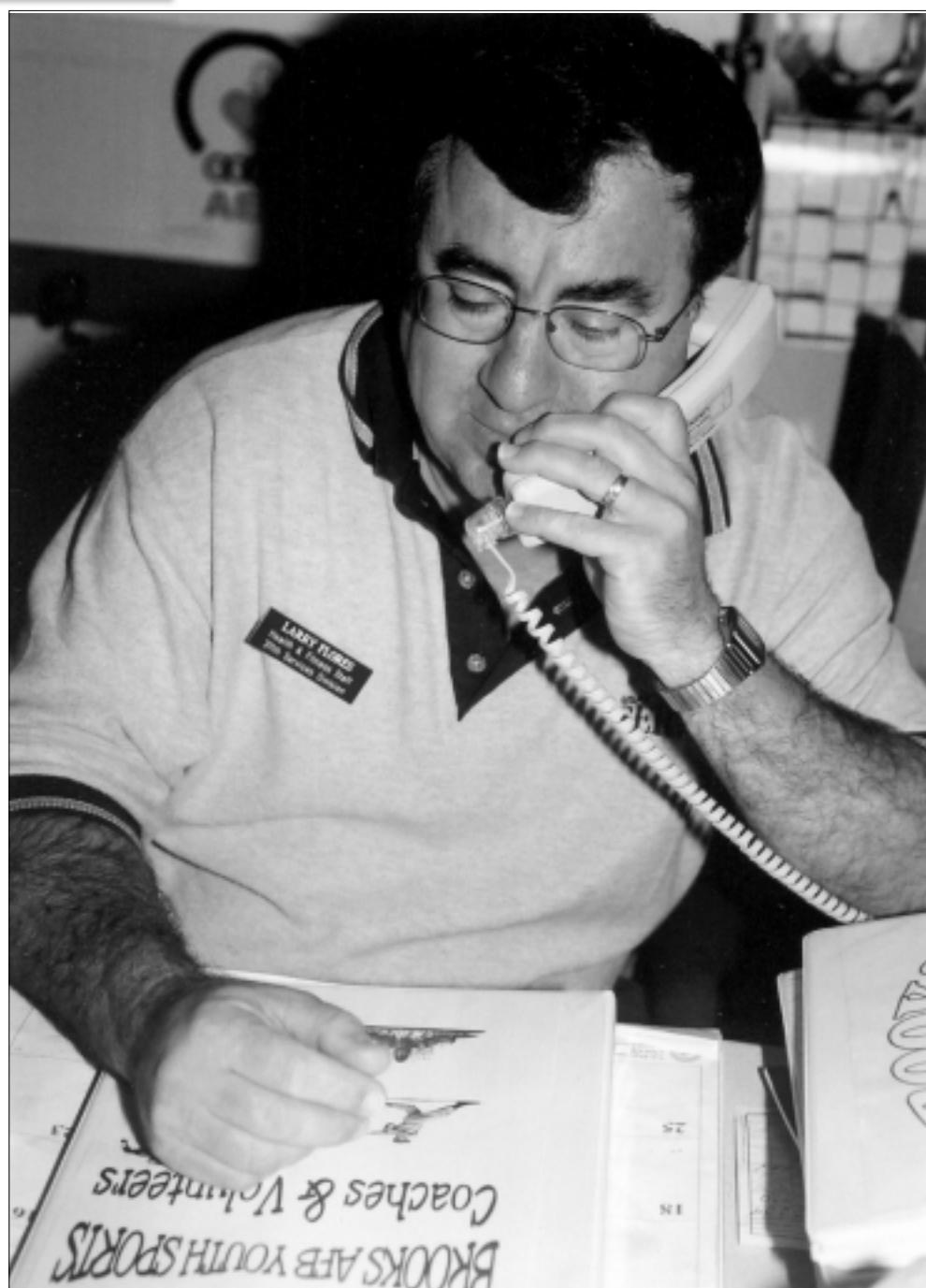
Amazingly, Mr. Flores seems never to suffer from laryngitis as event emcee where he introduces everyone individually using a microphone that appears to be surgically attached to his hand.

"I do extra stuff for the kids, to get them involved and excited," he said of his seemingly Herculean efforts that keep nearly everyone involved in the youth sports program busy.

"I thought I'd get burned out by going from one sport to the next (without a break), but I haven't. The parents and kids keep me going," he said.

Surprisingly, Flores is relatively new to youth sports, having first become involved with it during his second Brooks tour as a security forces patrolman and administrator. "I started coaching T-ball for my son David's team," he said, referring to 1985 when he was reassigned here. From that inauspicious beginning, Mr. Flores developed a reputation as a dependable youth sports volunteer. Dixie Bonomo, the Brooks youth director who retires Jan. 31, initially hired him parttime to run youth sports. He took over the program fulltime as a Non-Appropriated Fund employee after he concluded his 24-year active duty career in 1996.

As much as he enjoys sports, he never got an opportunity to participate in athletics until after he enlisted in the Air Force. "It was too far to walk home if I had stayed after



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Youth Sports Director Larry Flores has spent more time on the phone than a telemarketer coordinating countless athletic events for more than a decade.

school to participate in sports," said Mr. Flores, who lived on a farm about 12 miles from Floresville. The youngest of seven children, he was born in August 1953. His father was a professional bricklayer and his mother a homemaker. He joined the Air Force after graduating from Floresville High School in 1972. Going into Air Force law enforcement gave him a career option other than farming. It also gave him a chance to play Air Force intramural sports. He specialized in softball, a sport he also promoted during the last 10 years of his career when he helped organize the National Police Week softball tournament. That tourney gave Flores both the experience and motivation to stage future special events.

Special events he has introduced to the Brooks youth sports program include Operation Nite Hoops; the National Youth Games that features swimming, basketball, soccer and

track and field; the Kids Sports Network Basketball Jamboree; baseball Hit-A-Thon and "Hot Shot" two-ball basketball. The most memorable event he helped arrange was a special ceremony in 2000 that involved former 311th Human Systems Wing commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd. For the only time in Brooks sports history, a player's jersey was retired. The event honored 14-year-old Charles "Moose" Dickinson III who was killed by a hit-and-run driver walking home from school. Dodd presented the jersey to the boy's parents at half-time during homecoming for their son's former senior tackle football team — the Brooks Eagles. Flores credits his wife for her support, enabling him to become the base's version of the Energizer Bunny. He is also thankful to his boss Roy Conatzer, fitness center director, for the freedom to manage a program he's adopted as his extended family.



Introducing every player, coach and parent volunteer at the youth basketball season opening ceremony is routine for Brooks Youth Sports Director Larry Flores.



Brooks soccer team battles bad weather at Defender's Cup tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

In what turned out to be more an "All Weather Cup" rather than Lackland Air Force Base's 2nd Annual Defender's Cup, the Brooks soccer team fought tough competitors and tougher weather to post a respectable 3-2-1 tournament record during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

The Brooks squad, composed mainly of lunchtime soccer enthusiasts, played well against much younger and highly skilled varsity opponents.

"I think it's a testament to the physical fitness of our players, who put forth a dedicated effort, that positively reflects on Brooks City-Base," said Col. Chris Kleinsmith, the team's volunteer coach who also serves as the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's department chair for the Expeditionary Education and Training Department.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Col. Chris Kleinsmith, left, is the volunteer coach for Brooks lunchtime soccer enthusiasts. Though the group, coached by Col. Kleinsmith, practiced in preparation for the Defender's Cup tourney at Lackland Air Force Base during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, they were eliminated by Lackland.

The team's collective physical conditioning was immediately tested by the younger legs of the Whiteman AFB, Mo., squad that defeated Brooks 2-1 in the opening round.

"It was a real heartbreaker. That first game caught us by surprise," said Colonel Kleinsmith, referring to the Whiteman team's athleticism.

Playing in the pouring rain, Whiteman scored early in the first half and added a second half goal to win the

contest. Brooks veteran star Dave Stolarski cut the lead in half, but his penalty kick goal came much too late.

Losing their first game changed the tourney outcome for Brooks. "We finished third in our four-team group. Instead of tying for first if we had won the first game, we had to play five games to get to the championship," explained Colonel Kleinsmith. Last year, Brooks won its group round with a perfect 3-0 record, only to lose in the

Brooks varsity squad bounced from Sheppard hoop tourney

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks varsity basketball team's season took yet another detour when they were eliminated early from the Martin Luther King holiday tournament at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, Jan. 17-18.

The club was bounced from the double elimination tourney when they lost to Tinker Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston.

"It's frustrating. We brought seven players to the tournament and two of them were injured. They still went out there and played injured," said Hosea Talbert, Brooks varsity coach.

The injured players included rookie center/power forward William Benge who took an elbow to his fractured nose, re-injuring it; and veteran reserve power forward and assistant coach George Clark who played with an injured wrist. Star power forward Rob Taylor, who suffered a torn quadriceps at the beginning of the season, sparkled during the tourney despite not being at full power.

"He is not at a 100 percent playing level, but he gave us 110 percent (effort)," Mr. Talbert said.

Black History Month hoop tourney tipoff set for Feb. 19

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The base fitness center plans to help commemorate Black History Month with what is being called "The 1st Annual African-American 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament" scheduled for Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It's the first time we've sponsored a 3-on-3 basketball tourney for Black History Month. We hope we can make it an annual event," said Hosea Talbert, fitness center specialist.

The tourney is open to anyone 18 years old or older who lives or works on base.

The tourney will feature teams of three players each that will compete in half-court games. Trophies will be awarded to the tourney winner and runners-up.

Things looked promising for Brooks in the opening round against Tinker AFB.

"We had a great first half. We played awesome," described Talbert about his crew who trailed Tinker by a bucket at halftime. Several three pointers by Tinker to start the second half put Brooks in a hole from which they did not recover. The setback carried over into the Fort Sam Houston contest.

"Everybody had beaten Fort Sam by 20 points. They beat us by 20," said Mr. Talbert.

While the team remains winless this season, Mr. Talbert hasn't given up hope.

"We're not ready to quit," he said of their plans to re-group for the remainder of the regular schedule that includes two road games this weekend against Lackland AFB. Brooks hosts Dyess Feb. 7-8 in scheduled 1 p.m. games at the fitness center.

Lackland and Dyess are Brooks rivals in the Eastern Division of the Southwest Military Basketball League.

The base team's final tourney is a post-season showdown for the SMBL championship scheduled for March 18-22 at Altus AFB, Okla.

II It's the first time we've sponsored a 3-on-3 basketball tourney for Black History Month. We hope we can make it an annual event.

II

Hosea Talbert
Fitness Center Specialist

"The winner and runners-up will also receive specially designed T-shirts," Talbert said, noting that all tourney participants will receive T-shirts.

The tourney is open to an unlimited number of teams. The registration fee is \$20 per team. The money pays for trophies, T-shirts and officials, Mr. Talbert noted.

The registration deadline is Feb. 15. Registration forms are available at the fitness center front desk. For additional information call the Fitness Center at 536-2188 or -5968.

semi-finals.

Brooks completed group play by tying Fort Sam Houston and beating McConnell AFB, Kan., the latter played in 'mud bowl' conditions.

Buoyed by their first tourney win, Brooks beat Luke AFB, Ariz., 3-0 in the single-elimination semi-finals. Team standouts included midfielders Mike Garza and Jake Stolarski.

Their next opponent, Hurlbert Field, proved too much for Brooks. "Their guys were much younger and more athletic. We also had to play in a howling 25-30 mph wind that blew lengthwise along the field," he said, adding, "We had to defend against the wind." Their opponent took a 1-0 halftime lead, winning the game in the second half by a final score of 3-1. The contest exhausted the Brooks squad, that according to their coach, played their best game of the tourney.

"Then we ran headfirst into a brick wall — Lackland AFB," said the colonel. One of the strongest teams in the tourney had little trouble eliminating Brooks, beating them 3-1.

Philosophical about the team's performance, Colonel Kleinsmith said, "Our players are perhaps the most physically fit individuals on base. It fits real well with the new Air Force emphasis on fitness."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Commanders' Fitness Club

The Brooks Commanders' Fitness Club now meets at the Health and Fitness Center every Wednesday at 7 a.m. for a run/walk. Military and civilian personnel are encouraged to participate. Participants receive a Commanders' Fitness Club T-shirt after participating four times. Additional prizes are offered for other sessions. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

Call 536-2188 for more information.

Power Cycling

Power cycling is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Classes are free but limited seating is available for the first 12 participants to sign up for each class. Participants must bring bottled water, a towel and an attitude to begin the ride of your life. Contact the Fitness Center staff at 536-2188 for more details.

Fitness is the key to health

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